REPORT
OF THE
HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 39 (A/44/39)

UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 1990

NOTE

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CONTENTS

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		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	1
II.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	5 - 26	2
	A. Date and place of the session	5 - 6	2
	B. Attendance	7 - 15	2
	C. Opening of the session and election of the President	16 - 23	6
	D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	24	7
	E. Election of officers other than the President	25 - 26	7
III.	REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION	27 - 42	8
	A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme	27 - 31	8
	B. Highlights of progress reports	32 - 42	9
IV.	SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE	43 - 83	11
	A. Overview	43 - 60	11
	B. Actions by Governments	61 - 70	14
	C. Support by the United Nations development system	71 - 77	16
	D. Financing of technical co-operation among developing countries	78 - 81	18
	E. Procurement from developing countries	82 - 83	18
V.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	84 - 88	20
	A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary	84 - 85	20
	B. Schedule and organization of work for the seventh session of the High-level Committee	86	20
	C. Report on credentials	87	20
	D. Draft report of the Plenary	88	20

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
VI.	CLOSURE OF THE SESSION	89 - 97	21
	A. Statement by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation	89 - 94	21
	B. Closing statement by the President	95 - 97	22

Annexes

I.	Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its sixth session	24
II.	List of documents before the High-level Committee at its sixth session .	37

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a High-level Meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the Assembly decided, inter alia, to change the name of the High-level Meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as were made for the High-level Meeting. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the plenary and only one working group, and this practice has been followed in subsequent sessions.

2. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

3. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report 5/ was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

4. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987. The High-level Committee held a further meeting on 27 May 1987 to consider the adoption of its report. Its report 6/ was considered by the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

5. The sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989. The High-level Committee held a further meeting on 29 September 1989 to consider the adoption of its report.

6. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

7. The following 116 States participating in the United Nations Development Programme were represented at the session:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Yemen
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malaysia
Mali
Mauritania
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden

Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

8. In addition, representatives of the Cook Islands took part in the discussions of the Committee.

9. Members of the following offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

10. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

11. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Volunteers

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

World Food Programme

12. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the sessions:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

World Bank

International Maritime Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

13. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

African Development Bank

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

Latin American Economic System

Commonwealth Secretariat

League of Arab States

Organization of African Unity

Organization of the Islamic Conference

14. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

Andrés Bello Convention

Arab Monetary Fund

Asian Clearing Union

Andean Development Corporation

Economic Community of Western African States

Central American Institute of Public Administration

Intergovernmental Committee for Migration

Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

Islamic Development Bank

Lake Chad Basin Commission

OPEC Fund for International Development

Organización Latinoamericana de Energía

Permanent InterState Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries

15. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/34/415, para. 7), and as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited. The following were represented at the session:

All India Women's Conference

Airport Associations Co-ordinating Council

Arab Women's Solidarity Association

Asian Cultural Forum on Development

Association of African Universities

Data for Development

Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)

All Arab Women's Federation

Institute of International Education

International Advertising Association

International Alliance of Women

International Chamber of Commerce

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

International Council of Scientific Unions

International Council on Social Welfare

International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee

International Organization of Experts

International Union of Family Organizations

National Congress of Neighborhood Women

PAX Romana

Rehabilitation International

Third World Academy of Sciences

Trickle Up Program, Inc.

Women's International Zionist Organization

World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises

World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows

World Federation of Labour

World Federation of Trade Unions

World Muslim Congress

World Organization of the Scout Movement

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

16. The session was opened by Mr. R. Carlos Sersale di Cerisano, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Argentina.

17. Mr. Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

18. On taking office, the President noted that the High-level Committee was meeting at a time when, on the one hand, the world was encouraged by a relaxation at the global political level of the tensions and confrontations that had plagued it since the end of the Second World War and had distracted attention and diverted resources from improving the lives of its peoples, giving rise to hopes for a new era of international co-operation.

19. On the other hand, there persisted, alarmingly, the devastating economic and social conditions in which most of the developing countries - and even some parts of the developed world - had felt themselves virtually trapped for the last several decades, and not least the dismal decade of the 1980s. It was only through a new era of co-operation that the developing countries could break out of the situation.

20. Every developing country was struggling in its own way to develop its own national capacity to survive and prosper and bring about that national self-reliance that might one day help to protect it against economic forces beyond its control. National self-reliance was, indeed, the supreme objective of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries now entering its second decade of implementation, which remained as valid as ever in its principles and objectives.

21. It was the task of the High-level Committee to gain an up-to-date picture of the extent to which TCDC had taken hold as an integral part of world-wide technical co-operation for development. Bearing in mind that it was the developing countries themselves that had the prime responsibility for TCDC, it was necessary to measure

the progress that the countries had achieved in making TCDC, with or without other external assistance, a substantial part of their development activities.

22. No less important, it was necessary to survey the scope, depth and effectiveness of the partnership in TCDC that was formally established by the Plan of Action between the developing countries, the developed countries, the organizations of the United Nations development system under the leadership of UNDP, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

23. Although it was clear that further progress had been made at all levels and on all sides of the TCDC partnership, it was equally clear that obstacles still remained and that the potential value of TCDC had not been explored and realized as far as it should have been.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

24. The Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/6/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/6/L.2 and Corr.1). It was agreed that agenda items 5 and 6 would be the subjects of the general debate in plenary. The Working Group, which began its work on 18 September, was assigned agenda items 5 and 6. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its sixth session, see annex II below.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

25. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President: Mr. Charles S. Flemming (Saint Lucia)
Mr. K. O. Kumi (Ghana)
Mr. Selim Yenel (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Mr. Svetlozar Panov (Bulgaria)

26. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. Flemming should act as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

27. In his capacity as convenor of the High-level Committee and a representative of the United Nations development system as a whole, the Administrator of UNDP stated that the global picture suggested that TCDC had made substantial progress over the past decade and that the momentum was increasing. More and more developing countries were finding TCDC an appropriate means of improving their own capacities by drawing on the experience and expertise of their neighbours, and offering their own in return. TCDC was building bridges of co-operation between countries within Latin America, within Africa, among the Arab States and within Asia. And, perhaps more encouragingly, it was establishing new relationships across regional boundaries where comparatively little contact had previously existed.

28. It was clear that most of the initiative, decision-making, execution and financing of TCDC lay with the developing countries themselves. On the part of the United Nations system, however, there was a deliberate move to integrate TCDC into the programming and project development processes.

29. Perhaps the most spectacular stimulus that the United Nations system had so far been able to give to TCDC was its help to Governments in organizing intercountry TCDC programming activities. Those "TCDC markets" had now taken place within and among all the regions of the developing world and had generated hundreds of immediate TCDC exchanges. More importantly, however, they had opened the way to broader and lasting technical co-operation relationships among institutions, organizations and enterprises of developing countries where, in many cases, no contact had existed before. While initiative and action had rested primarily and properly with the Governments themselves, the United Nations system, spearheaded by the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC, had played an important catalytic and supportive role. Moreover, the list of proposed new "TCDC markets", several of which have innovative features, continued to grow. For example, in June 1989, the first intergovernmental TCDC programming exercise in aquaculture had been held in Mexico. Very recently, TCDC programming in the maritime field had been completed in Buenos Aires, assisted by the International Maritime Organization and the Special Unit.

30. A complementary facility that continued to grow in both capacity and use was the TCDC information referral system, known as INRES-South, which had increased the number of institutions covered in its data base to 4,000. The use of the service by developing-country institutions, UNDP field offices and United Nations agencies had also shown a marked increase. The further development of the INRES-South data base was of great importance to TCDC.

31. The Administrator emphasized the importance that should be placed by the United Nations system on TCDC. Whether the exchanges were in high-altitude irrigation or low-cost housing, remote sensing or non-destructive testing, developing countries had both high and intermediate technology to share with one another. It was a resource that must be better used to build national capacities in the face of the mounting debt pressures, scarcer development resources, the spread of critical poverty and the pressing need to reverse environmental degradation. The appropriateness of TCDC, as well as the common sense, made such an approach to development a completely compelling one.

B. Highlights of progress reports

32. The Administrator had submitted for consideration by the High-level Committee a series of reports on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered in the efforts of Governments and organizations within and outside the United Nations development system to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Highlights of those reports, which became the main focus of the Committee's debate and its eventual decisions, are set out below.

1. Action by Governments

33. The substantial progress made in TCDC over the past decade, with increasing momentum in the most recent years, had been achieved not only by an increase in the number of specific projects, but also by the very process of co-operative programming. As the multiplier effects spread, a growing web of regional and interregional co-operation activities was woven.

34. To build on their progress, Governments should, where necessary, continue to strengthen their national TCDC focal points and links with sectoral ministries and departments. The UNDP Special Unit for TCDC was available for assistance in that regard.

35. Governments that had not yet done so should also consider carefully the demonstrated benefits of establishing national budget allocations in support of TCDC activities; explore innovative funding approaches; and consider initiating additional TCDC programming exercises, as well as regional workshops, as a means of exchanging experiences in TCDC and further strengthening the process.

2. Action by the United Nations development system

36. There continued to be insufficient awareness of the options available for modalities of project execution, particularly the TCDC option. Orientation and training being initiated by the Special Unit for TCDC should help in that regard.

37. While progress had been reported in the utilization of the capacities of developing countries in the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system, there remained scope for further growth. The pace could be enhanced by activities of the organizations of the United Nations development system such as disseminating information on the relevant bidding procedures to the manufacturers and suppliers of developing countries.

38. The role of TCDC focal points and of the co-ordination of technical co-operation both in Governments and in organizations had emerged as crucial to the promotion and implementation of TCDC in development activities and projects. At the government level, both institutional and budgetary support were necessary. The UNDP Special Unit was preparing to assist Governments, at their request, in examining the use of TCDC in their internal co-ordination mechanisms and in strengthening their ability to utilize in a better way TCDC modalities through advisory, orientation and training programmes.

39. In the organizations of the United Nations development system, TCDC focal points should be fully associated with programme policy issues, and with the programme and project implementation and evaluation processes.

40. UNDP and other organizations would continue to assist developing countries to organize intercountry TCDC programming exercises, concentrating where desired on sectoral fields of development and expanding the participation of the private as well as the public sectors.

41. Steps had been taken to strengthen the staff of the Special Unit.

42. A great deal remained to be done by all organizations to make further use of the TCDC modality to bring women into the development process. Governments should consider placing qualified women in expert and consultant posts, training programmes, workshops and other assignments.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

43. While acknowledging the continuing improvement of international relationships at the political level and the possible promise of more favourable economic co-operation, most delegations expressed undiminished concern over the extremely difficult economic and social conditions under which efforts were being made to enhance the scope and effectiveness of technical co-operation among developing countries. The opinion was widely shared that the concept, principles and objectives embodied in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action were just as valid as when they were approved and, in some respects, even more relevant to present circumstances.

44. Speaking through their current Chairman, the States members of the Group of 77 pointed out that they were expected to pursue their development objectives in an unfavourable environment burdened by an unending external debt problem, deterioration in the terms of trade and a net transfer of resources to the developed countries. To reactivate economic growth and development, they attached special importance to the full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, viewing TCDC not as a substitute for North-South co-operation but as an indispensable and integral part of the efforts to restructure international economic relations.

45. There was general agreement that much progress had been made in the first decade of the Plan of Action in establishing TCDC as an effective instrument of development assistance, and that the momentum had increased in the last few years. Most developing countries, and several of the developed countries, had actively supported and participated in successful efforts to bring TCDC from being merely a topic of general debate to a pragmatic stage of implementation, thus making it an important aspect of South-South co-operation. The United Nations development system - UNDP and other related agencies - had done a great deal of work to promote that progress. For example, they had encouraged the procurement of equipment and recruitment of experts from the developing countries. They had helped organize intergovernmental programming exercises for technical co-operation in the developing countries. And they had promoted TCDC by carrying out regional projects aimed at increasing the capacity for self-reliance of the recipient countries. Other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations had played an increasingly useful part.

46. At the same time, there was also an equally widely shared view that progress had not been as rapid and widespread as had been expected. Some delegations ascribed the shortcomings to the lack of a sustained will and commitment on the part of the international community as a whole to support TCDC fully and to move away from rhetoric to concrete actions and projects. Others more specifically pointed to attitudinal problems: weaknesses in the machinery at both the country level and the international level for co-ordinating and organizing TCDC, inadequacy of information concerning the capacities and needs of developing countries and - most important in the view of many delegations - shortfalls in the financial support that they considered should have been forthcoming from international organizations and developed countries.

47. Representatives of some of the developed countries, both West and East, reaffirmed their support of the principles and practice of TCDC which, in a number of cases, was being promoted and assisted through their own bilateral aid programmes. They stressed the need, however, for developing countries to take the initiative in fostering TCDC activities. One representative felt that the concept had tended to be viewed by some developing countries as simply a need for donor countries to provide more resources to developing countries to promote the exchange of information, expertise and technology. In fact, he stated, many had shown considerable reluctance to assign any of their funds for the purpose. No amount of staff or institutional infrastructure was likely to overcome those barriers in the absence of countervailing activity on the part of the developing countries themselves.

48. The documentation before the Committee was supplemented by most delegations and representatives of agencies and organizations within and outside the United Nations development system by additional or more up-to-date information that showed, as some delegates pointed out, that the actual quantity of TCDC activities was far greater than had been formally reported. This new information included data from two of the larger United Nations organizations that had not been previously available. One delegation from a developed country, reiterating its positive attitude and actions with regard to TCDC, noted that the placement of trainees from developing countries financed through its bilateral programmes did, in fact, take place mostly in developing countries. Moreover, experts working under those programmes were now to a large extent nationals of developing countries.

49. Several delegations emphasized that a very large potential for TCDC remained to be explored, and that it continued to grow. The progress that had been made by many developing countries in recent years in acquiring experience in development, in building up skilled human resources and in establishing or strengthening development institutions in the public and private sectors had created a continuously replenished reservoir of experience and skills that could be drawn upon by others. Capacities existed not only in basic areas, such as farming, fishing, transportation and technical training, but also in increasingly higher technologies and advanced techniques of development planning and management.

50. The view was expressed that the new pressures and challenges facing the developing countries were also producing new opportunities to advance the cause of national and collective self-reliance. The unprecedented technological advances of recent years were bringing about changes in the patterns of production and consumption and patterns of trade. Those changes could aggravate the already difficult situation of developing countries, particularly in the area of access to the markets of developed economies and resources for development. Co-operation among themselves in exchanging experiences and information and in assisting one another in the field of new technologies could help to protect them against some of those problems.

51. Several delegations attached importance to new, emerging priorities for further action in technical co-operation as defined globally or at the regional level by developing countries. Those included trade and science and technology, as well as more traditional fields such as agriculture and industrial development. Nevertheless, TCDC would continue to embrace a wide spectrum of activities in all sectors, with great emphasis on the development of human resources. It was pointed out that the developing countries together possessed a rich reservoir of natural

resources, financial wealth, technology, technical skills, talent, labour and brainpower. What was lacking was the will and ability to pool those resources in the common cause of development.

52. Delegations pointed out that fresh emphasis had been placed on the value of TCDC and the need to enlarge its utilization at recent meetings of groups, such as the Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, sectoral meetings of the Group of 77 and a number of regional organizations. The coming into force of the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries was regarded as a significant step towards self-reliance and it was hoped that assistance would be forthcoming from UNDP to implement the agreement and carry out a new round of negotiations.

53. Various types of networking among countries, which facilitated the direct interchange of information, knowledge and experience, had significantly increased in number and appeared to be very promising for the future. Such networking imparted a self-sustaining momentum of its own and served as a vehicle for continuing co-operation between States. Those activities should be encouraged and their development from a disparate collection of ad hoc undertakings into an institutional framework should be strongly supported.

54. A number of delegations expressed concern that, even after the passage of 10 years, conceptual issues remained unclear in some quarters. Most felt that the concepts of TCDC were already clearly defined, while others were of the opinion that they should be reviewed and, if necessary, clarified. Unless conceptual, attitudinal and institutional barriers were removed, the integration of TCDC into the activities of the United Nations development system could not gain the desired momentum and widespread application. TCDC would succeed only as an integral part of the development process. It should not be regarded as a self-contained and self-sufficient alternative, with the risk that it might become an end in itself.

55. Several delegations urged the strengthening of triangular technical co-operation, with the full participation of the developed countries, regardless of their socio-economic systems. All of the partners - developing countries, developed countries and the United Nations development system - should play a full part at all levels of programming if TCDC were to be fully integrated, as it should be, into the mainstream of international technical co-operation. The supporting structure of such a mechanism should include professional TCDC officers at the centre of each regional, sectoral and specialized unit of UNDP and the other organizations of the system.

56. Some emphasis was placed on the need to give special attention to the specific requirements of the least developed countries. It was argued that those countries were, on the one hand, most vulnerable to existing constraints on development and, at the same time, most receptive to the kinds of technical co-operation that more advanced developing countries could provide.

57. The paucity of information available on the role of women in TCDC was a matter of disappointment to some delegations. One of them concluded that little conscious effort had been made to give responsibilities to women in TCDC programming and projects.

58. A widely shared overall view was that, in order to strengthen and expand TCDC so that more of its potential would be brought out, there was need for a more dynamic exercise of TCDC in the multitude of sectors and levels and on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit. They included the following: continuing the exploration and development of new channels in the United Nations system for TCDC; applying the spirit and principles of South-South co-operation in the formulation and implementation of the programmes of the United Nations development system; putting to use, to the extent possible, technologies, equipment and experts from the developing countries; strengthening the TCDC data system and information exchanges; allocating still greater funds by UNDP from its resources earmarked for special programmes in support of TCDC; adding new technical co-operative projects and encouraging and supporting regional networks by UNDP in formulating regional, interregional and global programmes; supporting business co-operation among enterprises of the developing countries, and enlarging the fruitful results of TCDC.

59. It was also argued that support for an involvement in TCDC by the developed countries served the improvement of North-South relations and the promotion of North-South dialogue. It was therefore hoped that the developed countries and the United Nations system would devote still greater human, material and financial resources to the assistance programmes making use of TCDC.

60. Some discussion took place on the future role of the High-level Committee. The more general view was that the mandate of the High-level Committee as the essential organ to review and assess the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action remained entirely valid. It was the only organ in which the whole range of the progress and problems of TCDC - outside as well as within the activities of the United Nations development system - could be exclusively reviewed by all of the participants in TCDC, and in which measures to enhance its use could be devised on the basis of an exchange of experience. Representatives of some of the developed countries, however, questioned the need for such a time-consuming and elaborate structure. In the interest of saving time and cost, consideration might be given to holding a high-level debate in the Governing Council of UNDP. Alternatively, the High-level Committee might meet less frequently, perhaps every three instead of every two years. It was also argued that, within the agenda of the Governing Council, any monetary or manpower implications that might arise could be fully debated. Moreover, TCDC could be made the subject of the high-level segment of the Governing Council's agenda every three or four years, which would maintain its profile.

B. Actions by Governments

61. As noted earlier, the delegations of most developing countries and several of those of the developed countries, as well as representatives of organizations within and outside the United Nations development system, provided new information that demonstrated a wide range of TCDC activities beyond those which had been reported.

62. Those presentations showed or reconfirmed the strengthening in many of the developing countries both of institutions capable of providing technical co-operation on a continuing basis and of the mechanisms needed to organize it.

63. There was widespread recognition of the necessity of strengthening national focal points for TCDC, placing them at the decision-making points and linking them with the developmental ministries, agencies and institutions, including those in the private sector in several cases.

64. The delegation of a developing country that had greatly increased its participation in TCDC noted that such steps had placed heavy demands on its national focal point. It would have to supervise the implementation of a broad range of TCDC projects, evaluate their impact and make necessary adjustments to the promotional and operational activities. The focal point would have to be strengthened not only for those purposes but also to improve its information system for needs and capacities. Experience had confirmed that weakness in focal points was a major reason for lack of satisfactory progress in TCDC and the readiness of the UNDP Special Unit to assist Governments in strengthening their internal mechanisms was to be welcomed. Such assistance should include the provision of relevant equipment.

65. The representative of another developing country described the evolution of its focal point into an agency specifically charged with co-ordinating both the receipt and the provision of technical co-operation. TCDC had assumed by far the largest share of the budget of the new agency.

66. Further information was given on the highly developed and effective network of national focal points established in the Latin American and Caribbean region. By contrast, it was stated that, in at least one other region (Asia and the Pacific), there was no regular communication or exchange of experience, information and expertise among the national focal points. Delegates from the region agreed that full support should be given to a current proposal to establish a network of national focal points at the subregional and regional levels.

67. Several delegations felt that a new dynamism had been injected into the implementation of the Plan of Action through the increasing number of intercountry TCDC programming exercises carried out by groups of countries with the support and assistance of the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC and other organizations of the United Nations system. Those innovative exercises offered the advantage of bringing together at one time the providers and recipients of TCDC, often in the presence of potential supplementary sources of finance. They also threw new light on the immense but still unexplored and unexploited resources that existed for technical co-operation, and helped to bring about a smooth transition from promotional to operational activities. Trends towards focusing intercountry programming more narrowly through a clear definition of commonly shared priorities and specific sectors of development, including enterprises and institutions in the private sector, were generally welcomed.

68. At the same time, it was pointed out that problems had emerged from the earlier series of exercises, in particular with regard to follow-up action. The representative of one of the countries that had hosted intercountry programming pointed out that, since adequate information on the implementation of the results of the exercises was not available, it was not possible to know how much of their potential was actually being utilized. The exercises were certainly functional in promoting TCDC, and that was essential; they should not, however, be an end in themselves, but rather a means to an end. Experience had confirmed that they generated more projects than could be implemented. In the case of his own country, a considerable number of the projects had been completed, but some had been

cancelled owing to a lack of response and others remained unimplemented. Difficulties of implementation were numerous and widespread, with funding a major problem.

69. The representative of another country with experience in joint programming had also found that agreed TCDC projects were frequently not implemented at the desired pace. The reasons included lack of information needed to prepare operations, lack of knowledge of procedures, changes in requirements or in the availability of the expected experts, and difficulty in mobilizing financial resources.

70. Several delegations welcomed the initiatives of the Special Unit for TCDC in encouraging innovative approaches to future intercountry programming, such as focusing on specific sectors and increasing the involvement of the private sector. Participation should not be limited to departments of Governments that co-ordinate aid, but should include enterprises and research bodies relevant to the subjects. Projects concluded should not only involve study tours, technical training and the transfer of technology, but should help bring about the establishment of rather large technical or economic co-operative projects, including, for instance, joint ventures.

C. Support by the United Nations development system

71. Most delegations saw positive improvements and an expansion of activity in the part played by the organizations of the United Nations development system in fostering and supporting TCDC. They noted with appreciation the strengthening in some organizations of the focal points for TCDC, the provision made by some for specific budget allocations and/or the use of trust funds, and in general, the effect that those actions appeared to be having on enhancing the awareness of TCDC as a modality of project implementation and its application in practice. Tributes were paid to UNDP for the conduct of its designated leadership role within the United Nations system and especially for the activities carried out by its recently strengthened Special Unit for TCDC, as well as to several other agencies and organizations that delegations felt had intensified their efforts to promote and assist TCDC.

72. On the other hand, the view was expressed that the United Nations system still had a long way to go before it or the Governments could be satisfied that the concept and application of TCDC as a valid development modality had adequately permeated the programming and project development and implementation processes. TCDC had not yet been integrated into the mainstream of international technical co-operation and more intensive and positive efforts were required.

73. That view was shared equally by developing and developed countries. In the case of UNDP, a delegate speaking on behalf of four developed countries, fully supporting the recent decision of the Governing Council that UNDP should promote as a priority the modality of TCDC, considered that UNDP should be increasingly able to use the potential of developing countries in its programmes, as well as the possibilities of acting as a broker between developing countries in identifying sources of TCDC.

74. Several delegations were impressed by the fact that spending within UNDP on TCDC had almost doubled during the period 1987-1988 from the preceding biennium, to a level of about $105 million. Some were puzzled and concerned, however, at seeing that all of the increase had been drawn from regional, interregional and global programmes, while spending within the country programmes had fallen by about half, to a negligible 0.6 per cent of total country spending. It was clear that the measures put in place to consider TCDC options in the country programming and project design stages had not borne fruit. Those measures needed to be developed further by UNDP and the agencies, but at the same time developing countries should seek TCDC implementation more actively. The key to channelling significantly increased resources through TCDC lay in its integration into the mainstream of programming. Packaging of TCDC resources as a separate cluster of projects for financing by incremental resources invited the marginalization of those activities, as well as lip service rather than commitment.

75. It was pointed out that one of the difficulties encountered in the realization of TCDC projects lay in the question of the availability of information and the efficiency and regularity of its dissemination. UNDP had made serious efforts, which should be strengthened, to gather and make available concrete and specific data on capacities and needs, mainly through the development of INRES-South. The system should be further organized, with resident representatives acting as the channel through which the information could be exchanged between the technical assistance co-ordinators in the various developing countries. In view of their crucial role in the United Nations system's support for TCDC, the resident representatives must be placed in a position to discuss with Governments and their headquarters, in specific rather than general terms, the advantages of TCDC modalities in particular cases. Projects should not be approved without the TCDC option having been explored.

76. For INRES-South to play its full part, it was vital that it be kept up to date by developing countries and also that it should be made use of by them. Moreover, the information contained in the system should be made more readily available to those in the field.

77. Many delegations welcomed the steps taken to strengthen the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC and looked forward to an expansion of its activities in helping Governments and organizations to strengthen their focal points through orientation and training and further meetings of national and international focal points, as well as supporting intercountry TCDC programming and other activities that could generate the enhancement of the quantity and quality of TCDC. At the same time, some delegations called for further increases in the staff and resources of the Unit and, more specifically, a continuation of funding from the Special Programme Resources. They considered that the Unit should continue to be an entity directly responsible to the Administrator. One delegation suggested that renaming the Special Unit "Secretariat for TCDC" would be more consistent with its actual functions. Several delegations considered that the Unit should participate fully - as should the focal points in the other United Nations organizations - in the internal policy and programming processes.

D. Financing of technical co-operation among developing countries

78. There was universal understanding that the principal responsibility for launching, financing and implementing TCDC activities lay with the developing countries themselves. Technical and financial assistance from third countries, international organizations or other sources must accordingly be regarded as a complementary form of support. The use of indicative planning figure (IPF) funding, for example, should serve to minimize constraints on TCDC activities and not to substitute UNDP resources for government funds. Some delegations considered it to be very important, therefore, that the partners from developing countries in TCDC should themselves ensure the longer-term durability of their co-operation.

79. Other delegations pointed out that, in many countries, IPF resources were already under tremendous pressure. There was an urgent need to explore catalytic funding outside the IPFs for TCDC operational projects. Sources could include intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, some of which were ready to assist. Mechanisms such as trust funds, cost-sharing and parallel funding should also be explored fully.

80. Some delegations welcomed action by UNDP to allow sufficent flexibility in its rules and procedures to enable developing countries to make more effective and fuller use of IPFs for TCDC purposes. It was suggested that more countries should earmark a portion of their country IPFs for TCDC. Others considered that a percentage of the regional, interregional and global IPFs should be set aside specifically for TCDC purposes, and that other organizations that had not already done so should make equivalent provisions in their budgets or their use for special resources.

81. The representative of one of the developed donor countries said that his Government was prepared to study ways and means of increasing its support of TCDC, but it was up to the developing countries to express more clearly what they expected from his country and to make known their priorities. He felt that there were still some ambiguities about the concept of TCDC: whether, for example, every case of an expert recruited from one developing country to another, or the purchase of equipment and supplies by one from another, or everything promoting regional co-operation, could necessarily be defined as TCDC.

E. Procurement from developing countries

82. While some delegations considered that the procurement by the United Nations system of experts, training facilities, equipment and supplies from developing countries for "mainstream" projects was distinct from true TCDC activities, others took the opportunity to welcome a degree of progress in the matter. They urged that still more intensive efforts should be made to utilize the capacities of developing countries in such a manner.

83. The representative of a developed country considered that procurement from developing countries was clearly in line with the aims and purposes of TCDC, but that if experience showed that it cost more than procurement from traditional sources, the matter should be reviewed. The premium of up to 15 per cent established for suppliers from developing countries could have the effect of increasing the cost, which explained why procurement from developing countries had not seen the increases that had been anticipated. His delegation was prepared to support, for the fifth cycle of UNDP programming, an arrangement by which UNDP programme resources could be used to meet the additional costs.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary

84. At its 6th meeting, on 29 September 1989, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary (TCDC/6/L.19).

85. In that report, the Working Group recommended the adoption of nine draft decisions (including the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session). At the proposal of one delegation, the Committee decided to reformulate draft decision 1, so that it would contain a recommendation to the General Assembly to adopt the text as a resolution of the Assembly itself. Following this, the Committee adopted the eight substantive draft decisions without a vote. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I below (decisions 6/1 through 6/8).

B. Schedule and organization of work for the seventh session of the High-level Committee

86. The Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its seventh session (TCDC/6/L.19 (draft decision 9)). The provisional agenda is contained in decision 6/9 (see annex I).

C. Report on credentials

87. At its 6th meeting, the President reported that, in accordance with rule 8 of the High-level Committee's rules of procedures, the Bureau had examined the credentials of delegations and had found them to be in order. The Committee approved the oral report of the President.

D. Draft report of the Plenary

88. The Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations. After the Chairman of the Group of 77 and other representatives had, in view of the timing of the session, sought assurance that the report would be considered by the General Assembly at its current session under agenda item 82 (e) and not delayed until the forty-fifth session, as suggested by one delegation, the Committee agreed that the President should convey the report to the Administrator of UNDP, who should consult the President of the Governing Council of UNDP concerning the appropriate action to be taken.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Statement by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

89. The Director-General noted that he would be presenting to the General Assembly, as part of his supplemenary report for the comprehensive policy review of operational activities, his recommendations on measures to achieve the objective insisted upon by the General Assembly that TCDC should become a widely used modality within the United Nations system. There was clearly a feeling, he stated, that the rapidly evolving technical capacities of developing countries and the advantages of TCDC in terms of relevance and cost-effectiveness had not been matched by progress in the utilization of the TCDC modality.

90. The concept of TCDC was firmly rooted in objective and practical considerations. As a modality, it was an integral part of the development process. Most of the developing countries were engaged in an endeavour, under difficult conditions, to develop their economies within a common set of constraints; they shared the same problems and faced the same international environment. As some of them succeeded in developing endogenous solutions to their problems, the instrument of TCDC should surely play a key role in enabling other developing countries to benefit from such experience. After decades of development assistance, there was growing realization that solutions to some of the more vital problems of the developing countries, at macro and micro levels, might be found in the South and not in the North. Many developing countries had already utilized the TCDC modality, because they had found it to be more relevant to their own requirements and socio-economic conditions. For many others, it had provided an excellent starting point for the development of lasting economic relations for both the public and the private sector. In several instances, TCDC had evolved through conscious bilateral agreements among two or more developing countries or through their own regional economic groupings. Some of the major bilateral partners were involved in the promotion of TCDC through their development assistance programmes. Such financial support was of particular importance at a time when budgetary and foreign exchange resources were under pressure in most parts of the developing world.

91. The challenge remained for the United Nations development system to mobilize the capacities, skills and experience available through TCDC in the context of all development activities, fully involving its unequalled field office network and organizations covering every possible sector. Effective integration of TCDC as a modality into the work of the organizations of the United Nations system would require fundamental changes not only in the manner in which its organizations worked, but also in their basic attitudes and approaches. Separating the issue from the basic operational work of organizations might, in many cases, have resulted in their paying little regard to opportunities offered by TCDC. The organizations of the system should selectively assemble information on innovative solutions and on capacities, to which it had in many cases contributed through its own activities in developing countries, and then ensure that such information was effectively utilized in relevant programmes in other developing countries. Such a comprehensive approach would involve fundamental changes in attitudes, as well as policies and procedures that might well be beyond the scope of special units and special intergovernmental bodies.

92. The Director-General observed that the Committee had adopted a number of decisions aimed at strengthening the capacity of the developing countries, as well as that of the United Nations system to integrate and widely utilize the TCDC modality. There was no doubt that, through greater use of the rapidly evolving capacities of the developing countries, the organizations of the United Nations system would be providing more innovative, more relevant and more cost-effective advice. For that purpose, all organizations would need to make a special effort at headquarters and at the country level to build the necessary capacity for a continuing assessment of national capacities and to ensure its widest possible dissemination for the incorporation in their activities. There was no doubt, either, that the countries that had established mechanisms to that effect would be in a better position to benefit from that information.

93. The Administrator, in a statement delivered by the Associate Administrator on his behalf, felt that the Committee had recognized that a great deal had been achieved by all of the partners in the TCDC endeavour. He had emphasized, however, that the resources for TCDC had barely been tapped and that TCDC had yet to play its full role in international technical co-operation. The decisions taken by the Committee were designed further to stimulate and facilitate TCDC, and he had noted with particular interest the set of recommendations and measures addressed to the developing countries themselves, as the prime movers in TCDC, for improving their own means of identifying needs and capabilities.

94. The Administrator stated that the Committee had shown appreciation of the supporting role of the United Nations development system and of the vast scope of opportunities that could be further tapped. It had also shown its faith in UNDP by relying upon the Organization to carry out some new activities designed to help the total TCDC endeavours. Its requests and recommendations would be taken most seriously. UNDP would work further towards establishing TCDC as an integral part of programming and project implementation. It would further strengthen its TCDC focal points and ensure their appropriate linkage with decision-making. It stood ready to help Governments to strengthen their own focal points and to foster regional co-operation among them. It would improve and expand its orientation and training programmes and continue to support intercountry TCDC programming and carry out the requested evaluation of those exercises. It would gladly join Governments in fostering the participation of women in TCDC and continue to improve the quantity and quality of the information on TCDC to be placed before the Committee.

B. Closing statement by the President

95. The President of the High-level Committee remarked that its review had shown considerable progress compared with the situation that existed at the time of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. TCDC had taken hold as a significant and potentially pervasive element of the total endeavours in international economic and social development. It could also be concluded, with some regret but also with a sense of challenge, that TCDC assumed even greater validity and importance at present in the face of the widespread internal and external difficulties that stood in the way of progress in the developing countries. All the participants - developing countries, developed countries, organizations and individuals - must steel themselves to do much more to move ahead in the face of those difficulties.

96. They must gear themselves to strengthen further the capacities of national focal points for TCDC so that they might reinforce their role in promoting TCDC in their respective national development efforts. The Committee looked forward to seeing the results of the requested expert review of the rules and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC, so that they might be further refined, wherever necessary, to accelerate the pace of deployment of TCDC modalities. Preparations must be made for an increasing number of TCDC programming activities, with a focus on priority areas of development and with more innovative methods conceived and developed from experience. Actions must be aimed at fostering the role of regional and interregional organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, in the support and promotion of TCDC. Intensified efforts were expected on the part of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations development system to improve the role of women in TCDC. The Committee would also expect a revitalized momentum in the role of the Special Unit for TCDC in co-ordinating and supporting TCDC in the organizations of the United Nations system.

97. Finally, the President stated, the Committee looked forward to having at its seventh session more comprehensive and encouraging reports from Governments, United Nations organizations, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on the substantial progress they would have achieved in their respective, and collective, endeavours in enhancing the TCDC thrust in social and economic development.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

5/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

6/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its sixth session*

		Page
6/1	Tenth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action	
6/2	Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities for technical co-operation among developing countries	
6/3	Review of the activities of the United Nations system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries ..	
6/4	Recommendations for the strengthening of technical co-operation among developing countries	
6/5	Promotion of programming exercises, including meetings for negotiation with respect to technical co-operation among developing countries	
6/6	Role of women in technical co-operation among developing countries ...	
6/7	Status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit	
6/8	Measures to strengthen the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme	
6/9	Provisional agenda for the 1991 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries ...	

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* All decisions were adopted at the 6th meeting on 29 September 1989.

6/1. Tenth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

The High-Level Committee

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, a/

Concerned that the economic situation of developing countries, which has been aggravated over the past decade, has had an impact generally on international co-operation for development and on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recognizing, however, that developing countries have achieved significant progress in implementing the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and that technical co-operation among developing countries has gradually become a means through which they contribute to development,

1. Reaffirms the continued validity and importance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

2. Emphasizes the imperative need to strengthen the implementation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries through the increased allocation and utilization of financial resources, as appropriate, for the promotion and implementation of projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Requests the various parties participating in the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, to give the necessary priority for the support, encouragement and implementation of specific activities and projects, so that such co-operation will become a basic component of their policies for development;

4. Urges the international community, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, to be favourably disposed to the requests for technical and financial support presented to them, in order to implement the specific activities and projects of technical co-operation among developing countries;

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a/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

5. Reiterates the need for developed countries and their international co-operation agencies to lend their firm support to technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in the context of recommendation 38 thereof. b/

6/2. Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities for technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Having considered the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, c/ which provides information on those activities for technical co-operation among developing countries that have been implemented by Governments and intergovernmental organizations,

1. Takes note of the report presented by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, concerning the Third Biennial Meeting of the Heads of National Agencies for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Panama City from 29 November to 2 December 1988, d/ and requests the United Nations Development Programme to lend technical and financial support for the convening of future meetings, and the implementation of any relevant recommendations that emerge therefrom;

2. Expresses its concern over the lack of detailed information from many Governments of developing countries concerning their activities for technical co-operation among developing countries for such information should provide a more complete picture of the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries; a/

3. Urges developing countries to comply with the request for information submitted by the United Nations Development Programme on activities they have conducted in support of the promotion and development of technical co-operation among developing countries;

4. Expresses its deep concern that, despite the decisions and recommendations adopted, many international organizations concerned with technical co-operation among developing countries were not in a position to submit, for the consideration of the High-level Committee at its sixth session, detailed information on their activities in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries and expresses also its deep concern

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b/ Ibid.

c/ TCDC/6/3.

d/ Document of the Group of 77, G.77/IFCC-VII/89/B.5.

that many international organizations were not in a position to support their claimed activities of technical co-operation among developing countries with accurate statistical and financial data;

5. Reiterates the pressing need for organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to provide specific information to promote and implement activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries and for the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to explore the channels, including the possibility of publishing a bulletin, for the provision of periodic information and flexible procedures to make it possible for developing countries to obtain easily the updated information, including the dissemination of information available within the information referral system e/ to the national focal points in developing countries on technical co-operation among developing countries.

6/3. Review of the activities of the United Nations system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 in which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, a/ and the decisions of the High-level Committee about the tasks and responsibilities of the various parties promoting and supporting technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recognizing that the economic situation of developing countries, which has been further aggravated over the past decade, makes it necessary for the various agencies of the United Nations system to strengthen their capacities for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recognizing the vulnerability and special needs of the least developed countries,

Taking note of the report presented by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the High-level Committee at its sixth session on the review of technical co-operation among developing countries, f/

Reiterating the need for the allocation and utilization of a greater volume of human and financial resources for the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, taking into account the many resolutions adopted by the United Nations and other international forums and appeals by the Governments of developing countries,

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e/ INRES-South.

f/ TCDC/6/2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3 and Corr.1.

Recognizing the willingness of the developing countries to expand their activities for technical co-operation among developing countries through their inclusion in the framework of the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant projects financed by agencies of the United Nations system, and the contribution that should be made by resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate and promote such activities,

Concerned about the difficulties in overcoming the obstacles raised by the traditional standard procedures followed by the United Nations technical co-operation organs, organizations and bodies and specialized agencies, and aware that those procedures have impeded the introduction of any relevant component for technical co-operation among developing countries into the regular programming process of the United Nations Development Programme at the identification, design, elaboration, evaluation or implementation stages,

1. Reiterates the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and reaffirms that the Plan should constitute a definitive and continuing legislative framework for countries, agencies in the United Nations system and international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Reaffirms its conviction that measures must continue to be adopted that help to strengthen the focal points of developing countries in order to promote technical co-operation among developing countries at the national, regional and interregional levels;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his report, in which the general status of technical co-operation among developing countries is described, and expresses its concern over the slow progress in the promotion and implementation of such activities and projects within the United Nations system;

4. Recommends, as a consequence, that, at appropriate meetings of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, greater attention be devoted to the promotion and implementation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

5. Urges the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and other bodies of the United Nations development system to enhance their efforts in strengthening the capacities for technical co-operation among developing countries of least developed countries, and requests the Special Unit to submit proposals, through the Preparatory Committee, to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris in 1990, on promoting and strengthening capabilities and activities for technical co-operation among developing countries in those countries, for possible inclusion in a new substantial programme of action for the least developed countries;

6. Invites the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to establish and/or strengthen their focal points or co-ordinating centres in order to ensure that the principles of technical co-operation among

developing countries is disseminated in their programmes and the technical assistance they provide to Governments for the preparation and implementation of projects under technical co-operation among developing countries;

7. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to provide technical and financial support to annual regional meetings of the directors of international technical co-operation of developing countries, considering that those forums are of the utmost importance for reviewing the operation of technical co-operation among developing countries and for the preparation of regional programming of activities and projects in this area;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, drawing on positive experiences, to explore ways and means of expanding the role of activities for technical co-operation among developing countries in the implementation of projects and programmes for enhancing and strengthening subregional and regional economic co-operation in those countries and to report thereon to the High-level Committee at its seventh session;

9. Reiterates the recommendation of the High-level Committee at its fifth session to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider allocating at least 25 per cent of the funds for programmes under regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures to activities for technical co-operation among developing countries, g/ and invites the Governing Council, at its thirty-seventh session, in 1990, to take appropriate action thereon;

10. Requests the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to manage additional financial resources of various kinds, inter alia, from the developed countries and their technical co-operation agencies and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, so as to allocate and increase the amounts earmarked for activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

11. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue its assistance to the meetings and activities of the developing countries aimed at increasing technical co-operation among developing countries;

12. Requests also that the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in carrying out their programmes of work and/or activities and projects, make greater use of the existing capacity of the developing countries to provide experts, consultants, equipment and services in general and, to this end, that they make the appropriate adjustments in their policies;

13. Reaffirms the validity of the recommendations contained in decision 5/7 of 27 May 1987, adopted by the High-level Committee at its fifth session, and urges their implementation before the seventh session of the Committee, to be held in 1991;

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g/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39 and Corr.1), annex I, decision 5/10.

14. Requests that the heads of the Special Unit of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries be closely associated with all phases of the decision-taking process by, inter alia, ensuring their active participation in the relevant organs and committees of the United Nations Development Programme;

15. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to organize, no later than January 1990, a meeting of technical co-operation experts of interested countries in order to identify clearly the impediments to technical co-operation among developing countries and changes to be introduced, so as to enable the incorporation of technical co-operation among developing countries into all programmes and projects financed by the United Nations system, and to recommend, as far as possible, revisions of the existing rules, regulations and procedures necessary for that purpose by the relevant governing bodies of the technical co-operation agencies of the United Nations system;

16. Further requests the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its thirty-seventh session, in June 1990, a report based on the conclusions of the meeting of experts mentioned above;

17. Emphasizes the continued validity of the High-level Committee as the only forum in which representatives of all the States Members of the United Nations review and promote technical co-operation among developing countries;

18. Entrusts the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with the task of preparing a report and submitting it for consideration to the High-level Committee, at its seventh session, on the implementation of the present decision, for the execution of which the United Nations system, in particular, bears responsibility;

19. Urges the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to review periodically the volume of resources allocated for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries with a view to considering increasing such resources, in keeping with the interest and firm support expressed by the developing countries at the special session of the Governing Council, held in February 1989. h/

6/4. Recommendations for the strengthening of technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Bearing in mind the general evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries a/ and the

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h/ For the report of the special session, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 13 (E/1989/32).

analysis of the responsibilities of the various parties participating in the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, in particular the developing countries,

Taking into account the difficulties most frequently faced by national focal points, which, in turn, have an adverse impact on the promotion and implementation of activities for technical co-operation among developing countries,

Considering that it is appropriate for developing countries that deem it necessary to be able to earmark a percentage of their national indicative planning figure for the promotion of and support to activities for technical co-operation among developing countries and to allocate, where advisable, national budget items in local currency,

Decides to formulate a set of recommendations and measures that, in accordance with the conditions, interests and priorities of each of the countries involved, could be considered by Governments with a view to expanding and improving their activities, projects or programmes for technical co-operation among developing countries, as follows:

(a) Those developing countries which have not already done so should elaborate directories of the supply and demand for technical co-operation among developing countries that would specify priority areas or sectors and employ appropriate methodologies in this elaboration;

(b) National focal points should design mechanisms or systems for periodic updating of information on needs and capabilities for technical co-operation among developing countries;

(c) Developing countries, in the context of their national development programmes, should ensure easy access by focal points to national data banks and information systems;

(d) Developing countries should develop, in turn, registries and/or data banks on experts, institutions and professional organizations and local techniques capable of transferring knowledge and technologies, together with equipment and services produced in the countries; as those banks are set up, methods of dissemination and exchange shall be decided upon, with a view to utilizing the potential of technical co-operation among developing countries in the various regions, thereby paving the way for greater participation in the activities and projects promoted;

(e) Opportunities for technical and financial support should be identified in an effort to strengthen national focal points;

(f) Those countries which have not already done so should incorporate the Technology Information Pilot System, considering the importance of strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries in the scientific and technological sector, and recommends that ties be formed among the organizations that promote this sector, bearing in mind the considerable potential for carrying out activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries on a regional and interregional basis;

(g) Countries should establish or improve information services related to the supply and demand for training (courses, seminars, internships etc.), together with the conditions for financing, and they should revitalize the periodic dispatch of this information through the regional focal points for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries and circulate it through the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme;

(h) It is of fundamental importance to ensure that provision is made for full use of national experts and consultants in projects and activities for technical co-operation among developing countries and the acquisition of equipment and supplies from the developing countries themselves;

(i) The national focal points should gather detailed and updated information on the programmes of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and from the regional and subregional organizations whose budgets provide for the development of technical co-operation among developing countries with a view to achieving greater and improved access to them;

(j) The regional focal points designated by developing countries should be assigned the task of identifying experiences in the promotion and implementation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

(k) National focal points should design, where appropriate, flexible machinery to facilitate the role and involvement of the private sector in the promotion and implementation of projects and activities for technical co-operation among developing countries.

6/5. Promotion of programming exercises, including meetings for negotiation with respect to technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/179 of 11 December 1987 on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical co-operation among developing countries,

Also recalling the fundamental aim of strengthening the concept of collective self-reliance among developing countries through technical co-operation among developing countries,

Expressing its satisfaction over the holding of programming exercises, including meetings for the negotiation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries,

Stressing the need for programming exercises to facilitate the integration of technical co-operation among developing countries into the mainstream of technical co-operation activities, especially those of the United Nations system, and particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the recently conducted programming exercises, including meetings for the negotiation of activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue offering its firm support to such exercises and meetings, recognizing their catalytic role in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, and to continue to support the implementation of the activities and projects resulting from such exercises;

3. Urges the developed countries, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations to support such exercises and meetings and to obtain financing for activities and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries that emerge therefrom in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries; a/

4. Also urges the United Nations Development Programme to include, as appropriate, projects emerging from such exercises and meetings in its regional, interregional and global programming;

5. Invites subregional, regional and international financial institutions that finance development to participate by offering financial support to technical co-operation among developing countries, in particular projects and activities resulting from the meetings and programming exercises, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to carry out an evaluation of the programming exercises already concluded, focusing especially on the planning and follow-up methodology, in order to increase and improve the efficacy of future exercises in the context of strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries;

7. Invites the developing countries to identify priority themes or sectors that, in accordance with their interests and priorities and their national development plans, could be included within the regional programming of activities for technical co-operation among developing countries, and to that end, invites Governments to transmit information to the regional focal points and instruct them to elaborate a regional programming plan for their consideration, once such information is processed;

8. Also invites the parties concerned, in particular the United Nations system, to give the necessary attention to the promotion and strengthening of sectoral intergovernmental and other programming exercises of technical co-operation among developing countries, whose choices should be in full consonance with the economic programmes and priorities of the concerned countries.

6/6. Role of women in technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Affirming its decision 5/4, of 27 May 1987, on the role of women in technical co-operation among developing countries, i/

Affirming also paragraph 17 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, a/ which identified the integration of women in development as a field of co-operation to be strengthened and supported by the recommendations of the Plan of Action,

1. Decides to continue to monitor progress made in the integration of women in development through technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of all organs of the United Nations development system to develop and improve guidelines to ensure full access and participation of women in activities of technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Invites developing countries to continue to intensify efforts to integrate women in activities of technical co-operation among developing countries, as a means to enhancing their participation in the development process;

4. Stresses the need for technical co-operation among developing countries' exercises, sponsored in part by the United Nations Development Programme, to facilitate and encourage the full participation of women and to take specific account of the need to integrate women in the identification, design and implementation of projects adopted as a result of those exercises;

5. Requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries at its seventh session.

6/7. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical co-operation among developing countries; j/

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i/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39), annex I.

j/ TCDC/6/6.

2. Expresses concern over the pace of implementation of recommendations 4 (a) (b) and (c), and 5 (c) and (d) of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding the use of modalities for technical co-operation among developing countries in the implementation of development projects financed from the resources of the country, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures of the United Nations Development Programme, and calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of the other organizations of the United Nations development system to reinforce efforts within their respective organizations to facilitate speedier implementation of those recommendations;

3. Expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of recommendation 4 (c) of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the progress of the project on the promotion of action-oriented activities of developing countries for technical co-operation among developing countries, k/ and the commencement of training of government operational staff for technical co-operation among developing countries under another project, both being funded from special programme resources and managed by the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its seventh session on the progress of the implementation of all recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical co-operation among developing countries during the biennium.

6/8. Measures to strengthen the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 3/8 of 6 June 1983, l/ 4/3 of 5 June 1985, m/ and 5/2 of 27 May 1987, l/ in which, inter alia, requests were formulated with a view to strengthening the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, so that the Special Unit could fulfil its function of promoting and encouraging technical co-operation among developing countries,

Emphasizing the need to staff the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to meet fully its responsibilities under its mandate,

Reiterating that all the functions of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries as prescribed in the Buenos Aires Plan

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k/ Project INT/83/904.

l/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39), annex I.

m/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39), annex I.

of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries a/ remain current and fully relevant to the technical co-operation needs of developing countries,

1. Urges the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider greater financial and personnel support to the Special Unit for technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in considering the organizational structure of the Programme, to take full account of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 3251 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974 on technical co-operation among developing countries, and Governing Council decision 74/34 of 20 June 1974 on the report of the Working Group on technical co-operation among developing countries. n/

6/9. Provisional agenda for the 1991 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its sixth session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its seventh session, to be held in 1991:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Election of officers other than the President.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee.

6. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

8. Provisional agenda for the 1993 session of the High-level Committee.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

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n/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2 A (E/5543/Rev.1), para. 224.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its sixth session

Title	Symbol
Provisional agenda	TCDC/6/L.1
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	TCDC/6/L.2 and Corr.1
Annotations to the provisional agenda	TCDC/6/1
Annotations to the provisional agenda: Revised list of documents	TCDC/6/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: Status of pre-session documents	TCDC/6/1/Add.2/Rev.1
Progress made in the decade 1978-1988 in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	TCDC/6/2 and Corr.1 and Corr.2 TCDC/6/2/Add.1 TCDC/6/2/Add.2 TCDC/6/2/Add.2/Corr.1 TCDC/6/2/Add.3 TCDC/6/2/Add.3/Corr.1
Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical co-operation among developing countries	TCDC/6/3
Strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical co-operation among developing countries	TCDC/6/4
Report of the meeting of the TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system	TCDC/6/5
Status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical co-operation among developing countries	TCDC/6/6
Role of women in technical co-operation among developing countries (women in development through TCDC)	TCDC/6/7
Measures to facilitate TCDC - staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	TCDC/6/8

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